

Groundwater Content Enhancement in California Water Plan Update 2013 Summary

Objective/Role:

The major role of the California Water Plan Update 2013 groundwater work team is to expand information about groundwater conditions in Update 2013. The goal is to better inform groundwater management actions and policies through improved data and analysis.

As part of the Water Plan Updates 2005 and 2009 processes, advisory committee members as well as other water stakeholders highlighted the need to have access to better information about California's groundwater conditions. There is a great need to improve our understanding and quantification of the state's groundwater resources. Without reliable data and analysis on groundwater, the state's goal to better manage the resource will likely remain unattainable. In the absence of data and analysis, also ineffectual will be the state's goal of increasing conjunctive management of groundwater with other water supplies as part and parcel of Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) programs and projects. Another issue of concern is how to address long-term sustainability of groundwater from a quantity and a quality perspective. The major impediment, again, is lack of data to undertake the appropriate analysis to assess sustainability of the resource through the development and on-going tracking of a set of relevant sustainability indicators. Update 2013 plans to confront the issue of lack of groundwater data directly with the vision of achieving a set of short-term goals, while keeping in the view a broader set of long-term goals to be attained in future Water Plan Updates beyond 2013. The major short-term goals are: quantification of change in storage, identification of data gaps, integration of information among various State initiatives, and Case Studies to illustrate utility of groundwater information for local resource management. The most critical long-term goal is to develop groundwater budget for groundwater basins or planning areas.

Key Deliverables for Update 2013:

1.	Project objectives, deliverables, and resources needs; roles and responsibilities charts to integrate groundwater information from various State and federal initiatives; and roles and responsibilities charts for project deliverables.	12/2010
2.	Project scope with detailed task breakdown, resources needs, and schedule.	02/2011
3.	Document integrating groundwater information from various State and federal planning initiatives.	09/2011

4.	Narrative documents of groundwater conditions and management activities in each Regional Report.	12/2011
5.	Inventories of opportunities for: a) conjunctive management of groundwater and other supplies, and b) groundwater banking and integrated flood management.	06/2012
6.	Quantification and report on change in groundwater storage for planning areas/groundwater basins.	09/2012
7.	Draft documentation of groundwater data and analysis for Public Review draft of Water Plan Update 2013.	12/2012
8.	Case Studies including detailed groundwater budget for selected groundwater basins.	04/2013
9.	Preliminary sustainability indicators for groundwater quantity and quality.	06/2013
10.	Documentation of data gaps for the State's groundwater basins.	08/2013
11.	Final documentation of groundwater data and analysis for Water Plan Update 2013.	09/2013

Coordination Venues:

Meetings at DWR/other Agency meeting rooms.

Webex meetings.

Work team conference calls.

Dedicated inter-agency website for documents sharing and feedback.

Work team email communications.

How to get involved:

To get involved, be an enthusiastic, regular, and thoughtful participant in the work team process. Please contact Update 2013 groundwater Lead Coordinator, Abdul Khan, to become a member of the groundwater work team.

Contact information:

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